

This document provides the justification for Sharon DeMeo to attend the 2013 International Water Conference. The conference, which is held yearly, presents the latest scientific advances and applications available for the use and reuse of water for industrial purposes. This year's conference takes place from November 17<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> in Orlando, Florida. The registration fee at this time is \$450 for a full-time government employee to attend. This fee includes attendance to any of the technical sessions and exhibit hall. Continuing education workshops are also offered for an additional fee of \$250 per course.

It is necessary for Sharon to attend the conference to gain additional technical information and knowledge concerning Merrimack Stations flue gas desulfurization system. This knowledge is required to continue the NPDES permitting process for the facility. Specifically, EPA Region I is making a site-specific, best professional judgment determination under the Clean Water Act for the treated wastewater from the company's state-of-the-art pollution control system. Region I is one of the first permitting authorities in the country to make such a determination. Multiple papers on the treatment of flue gas desulfurization wastewater will be presented at several technical sessions, including one specific to the experiences at Merrimack Station. In addition, there is a continuing education workshop offered that will provide a more detailed understanding of the type of treatment system installed at Merrimack Station. This workshop will be presented by the same company that installed and operates the treatment system at Merrimack Station. Furthermore, the conference will include a technical session pertaining to the new Steam Electric Effluent Guidelines, for which Sharon is the Regional lead.